



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

— *Lee Holloway* —
Chairman of the Board

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GOVERNMENT REFORM MUST INCLUDE MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION

Economies of scale can only be achieved with consolidation at local level

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement in response to the Public Policy Forum’s report on Milwaukee County government.

“Contrary to the portrayal from this morning’s *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* editorial, the report issued by the Public Policy Forum underscores the important role Milwaukee County government plays in our community. These findings show that we need to closely examine all options, and this report has stimulated my interest in going further. It’s time for all elected officials to find the courage to step up and consider consolidating functions at the local level. This is the only route to achieve true economies of scale. For example, a number of municipal health departments within Milwaukee County are actually operated by individual municipalities, while the 71 other counties in Wisconsin save taxpayer dollars by having one central health department to serve all municipalities in the County. This unique duplication within Milwaukee County could easily be eliminated.

“As this report examines, a number of successful metropolitan governments, including Indianapolis and Louisville, have eliminated smaller municipalities in favor of one metropolitan umbrella. Currently, Milwaukee County is the largest overlying government in southeast Wisconsin. If communities are interested in saving tax dollars, they may want to consider the delicate process of consolidating service at the local municipal level. It just makes good sense if you want to achieve true reform and real savings.”

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